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TITLE: VECTOR MODULATOR USING AMPLITUDE INVARIANT
PHASE SHIFTER

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VECTOR MODULATOR USING AMPLITUDE INVARIANT PHASE SHIFTER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a vector modulator in a mobile communication system.

2. Background of the Related Art

10 In general, a Radio Frequency (RF) system changes a frequency, or controls an amplitude and a phase of a signal. The signal denotes a quantity (for example, current, voltage, frequency, etc.) which can be specifically observed. The modulation is a form of a signal suitable for transmission to remote destination in a noiseless state. In the RF field, amplifiers (which are RF control devices), attenuators, phase shifters, and switches are used for changing an amplitude and phase of a received signal, thereby controlling the received signal. The vector modulator, which is another such RF signal control device,
15 has an active device and a passive device combined, and is suitable for controlling the amplitude and the phase on the same time.

 Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram showing a system of a related art vector modulator. Referring to Figure 1, a quadrature hybrid coupler 11 is provided for receiving a RF signal through an input terminal thereon and separating the RF signal into

an I-channel and a Q-channel. The Q-channel signal separated by the quadrature hybrid coupler 11 is provided to a first biphase modulator 12, and the I-channel signal is provided to the second biphase modulator 13. The I and Q-channel signals have the same amplitudes, but with a 90° phase difference.

5 The first biphase modulator 12 modulates only a phase of a received Q channel
a signal in a range of 0° ^{or} ~~to~~ 180°, and the second biphase modulator 13 modulates only a
a phase of a received I channel signal in a range of 0° ^{or} ~~to~~ 180°. Therefore, most phase
modulators 12 and 13 are biphase modulators which shift only the phases of the signals
within a range of 0° or 180° and not the amplitudes of the signals. The first and second
10 phase invariant attenuators 14 and 15 adjust only the amplitudes of the channel signals
from the biphase modulators 12 and 13 according to their own ranges of attenuations,
respectively. The combiner 16 combines signals from the first and second phase invariant
attenuators 14 and 15 and forwards the combined signal through an output terminal. The
attenuation ranges of the first and second phase invariant attenuators 14 and 15 are
15 proportional to an entire range of variation of a vector modulator as shown in equation
(1), below.

$$R = 10^{-(X/20)} \text{ ----- (1)}$$

In equation 1, X is an attenuation value dB of each phase invariant attenuator and R is an output of the vector modulator. The attenuation ranges of respective phase invariant attenuators can be expressed as equations (2) and (3).

$$I(\text{dB}) = 20\log(R\cos\theta) \text{-----} (2)$$

$$Q(\text{dB}) = 20\log(R\sin\theta) \text{-----} (3)$$

When the attenuation values dB of the phase invariant attenuators operative as equations (2) and (3) are varied up to 20dB at 1dB intervals, outputs of the vector modulator are as shown in Figure 3. Therefore, as the attenuation ranges of the phase invariant attenuators 14 and 15 become greater, the ranges of variation of the vector modulator become greater in proportion to the attenuation ranges. Such a vector modulator is called as an I-Q vector modulator.

The I-Q vector modulator shown in Figure 1 will be described. It is assumed that a RF signal with a phase angle of θ is provided to the I-Q vector modulator shown in Figure 1. The quadrature hybrid coupler 11 provides an I channel signal with a phase angle θ' through one path, and a Q channel signal with a phase angle of $\theta' + 90^\circ$ through another path. The first biphase modulator 12 and the second biphase modulator 13 shift phases of the channel signals within ranges of 0° ^{or} ~~to~~ 180° , respectively. Therefore, a range of phase of the Q channel signal which can be provided from the first biphase modulator

12 is $\theta' \sim \theta' + 180^\circ$, and a range of phase of the I channel signal which can be provided from the second biphase modulator 13 is $\theta' + 90^\circ \sim \theta' + 270^\circ$.

However, as shown in Figure 3, the related art I-Q vector modulator controls the amplitude and the phase of a received RF signal within a limited range, which can be verified by determining whether the modulated signal, output of the I-Q vector modulator, covers all regions of a polar coordinate system. The related art I-Q vector modulator can not vary the amplitude and the phase of the received signal to cover all sections of the polar coordinate system. Further, in order to express a vector having a very small amplitude in the vicinities of the I and Q axes, the attenuation value should be very small, requiring an attenuator with a great attenuation range or many steps of attenuators. Since an amplifier is required additionally to express a value outside of the existing I-Q vector modulator range, the related art vector modulator has a limited range of use.

The above references are incorporated by reference herein where appropriate for appropriate teachings of additional or alternative details, features and/or technical background.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention to provide a vector modulator that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

5 Another object of the present invention is to provide a vector modulator which can extend a variation range of a RF signal for displaying a modulated signal vector on all regions of a polar coordinate system.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a linearizer for a high power amplifier having a vector modulator of the present invention.

10 To achieve these objects and other advantages in whole or in parts, and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described, one embodiment includes the vector modulator having a first amplitude invariant phase shifter for shifting a phase of a received signal at fixed intervals within a preset first shifting range, a quadrature hybrid coupler for separating an output of the first amplitude
15 invariant phase shifter into at least two different channel signals having a 90° phase difference to each other, a second amplitude invariant phase shifter for shifting a phase of a first channel signal among outputs of the quadrature hybrid coupler by a fixed amplitude within a preset second shifting range, a third amplitude invariant phase shifter for shifting a phase of a second channel signal among outputs of the quadrature hybrid
20 coupler by a fixed amplitude within a preset third shifting range, and a combiner for

receiving signals from the second and third invariant phase shifters and calculating a vector sum.

In another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a linearizer for a high power amplifier including a divider for dividing a received signal into a first signal and a second signal, a vector modulator for receiving the first signal and subjecting to vector modulation in response to a control signal, an amplifier for amplifying a signal from the vector modulator to a preset amplification ratio, a directional coupler for sampling a signal from the amplifier, and a fast phase-amplitude controller for comparing amplitudes and phases of a sampling signal detected at the directional coupler and the second signal delayed for a time period, to provide the control signal, wherein the vector modulator includes a first amplitude invariant phase shifter for shifting a phase of the first signal at fixed intervals within a preset first shifting range, a quadrature hybrid coupler for separating an output of the first amplitude invariant phase shifter into at least two different channel signals having a 90° phase difference to each other, a second amplitude invariant phase shifter for shifting a phase of a first channel signal among outputs of the quadrature hybrid coupler by a fixed amplitude within a preset second shifting range, a third amplitude invariant phase shifter for shifting a phase of a second channel signal among outputs of the quadrature hybrid coupler by a fixed amplitude within a preset third shifting range, and a combiner for receiving signals from the second and third invariant phase shifters and calculating a vector sum thereof.

Additional advantages, objects, and features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and in part will become apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned from practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized
5 and attained as particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be described in detail with reference to the following drawings in which like reference numerals refer to like elements wherein:

Figure 1 is a drawing that illustrates a block diagram showing a system of a related art I-Q vector modulator;

Figure 2 is a drawing that illustrates an I-Q phase relation of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a drawing that illustrates output characteristics of the I-Q vector modulator in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a drawing that illustrates a block diagram showing a system of an I-Q vector modulator in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 is a drawing that illustrates an I-Q phase relation of an I-Q vector modulator of an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 6 and 7 are drawings which illustrate output characteristics of the I-Q vector modulator of an embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 8A ~ 8C are drawings which illustrate circuits of amplitude invariant phase shifters of embodiments of the present invention; and,

Figure 9 is a drawing that illustrates a block diagram showing the I-Q vector modulator as embodied in the present invention applied to a high power amplifier.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to Figure 4, the I-Q vector modulator according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 for receiving and shifting a phase of a RF signal within a range of 0° to 360° , and a quadrature hybrid coupler 22 for converting a signal from the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 into an I-channel signal and a Q-channel signal having the same amplitudes and a 90° phase difference. A second amplitude invariant phase shifter 23 shifts a phase of a first output of the quadrature hybrid coupler 22 within 0° to $+90^\circ$ without changing an amplitude of the Q-channel signal of the output of the quadrature hybrid coupler 22, and a third amplitude invariant phase shifter 24 shifts a phase of a second output of the quadrature hybrid coupler 22 within 0° to $+90^\circ$ without changing an amplitude of the I-channel signal of the output of the quadrature hybrid coupler 22. A combiner 25 receives outputs of the second and third amplitude invariant phase shifters 23 and 24 and calculates a vector sum.

Provided the quadrature hybrid coupler 22 is of a microstrip, the quadrature hybrid coupler 22 may, for example, be a Branch line, Lange coupler, or a Wilkinson divider. If the quadrature hybrid coupler is the Wilkinson divider, lines having a 90° phase difference to each other are connected to two output ports of the divider. Recently, there have been many surface mount technology (SMT) products provided for different frequencies, and those modules have mostly been used as the quadrature hybrid coupler 22. However, as the quadrature hybrid coupler conducts an important role of determining I and Q paths, characteristics of the vector modulator are dependent on an amplitude balance or a phase balance, and an amplitude unbalance or a phase unbalance acts as an amplitude or phase error of the vector modulator.

In general, a characteristic of the first, second and third amplitude invariant phase shifters 21, 23 and 24 is that insertion losses of these first to third amplitude invariant phase shifters 21, 23 and 24 are dependent on phase shifts. Additionally, a range of the phase shift and a variation of the insertion loss caused by the phase shift are important factors for determining a grade of the amplitude variant phase shifter. The variation of the insertion loss caused by the phase shift is dependent on an amount of error of the phase shifter, and the insertion loss is controlled to be below 1dB and the characteristics to be within 0.2 dB/ 90° .

Figures 8A-8C illustrate circuits of reflection form amplitude invariant phase shifters according to one embodiment of the present invention having varactor diodes or

PIN diodes. A junction capacitor in the PIN diode exhibits a low capacitance value at a radio frequency, which increases in a forward direction bias. Under a second state, the PIN diode has the advantage that it is not sensitive to temperature, can control high power, and generates a small amount of harmonics.

Figure 8A illustrates a circular type amplitude invariant phase shifter using the PIN diode, and Figure 8B illustrates a 90° hybrid coupler type amplitude invariant phase shifter. As shown in Figures 8A and 8B, diodes D1-D3 are coupled to ground through respective transmission lines. Depending on a length of the line, an amount of the phase shift is determined. The diodes D1-D3 operate in two states. That is, in a turned on state (in a low resistance mode), a signal will be transmitted up to an end of a transmission line and reflected at the end. In a turned off state (in a high resistance mode), the signal will be reflected at the diodes D1-D3. Therefore, the reflected signal will be forwarded through an output port as it is. The amount of phase shift can be expressed as shown in equation (4) below depending on the diode, a transmission line length ΔL , and signal wavelength λ .

$$\theta = \frac{2\pi\Delta L}{\lambda} \text{-----} (4)$$

Figure 8C illustrates a reflection type amplitude invariant phase shifter circuit using varactor diodes, according to an embodiment of this invention. Referring to Figure 8C, the varactor diode D4 or D5, which is a variable reactance device, can shift phase

according to a bias voltage, because the varactor diode has a characteristic that a capacitance of the diode is reduced as a reverse bias voltage is increased. Though the varactor diode D4 or D5 has components of resistance R, inductance L and capacitance C, an amount of the phase shift can be expressed as shown in equation (5) below, if it is assumed that the varactor diode D4 or D5 has only a pure reactance component, disregarding the resistance component R.

$$\theta = -\frac{\pi}{2} + \tan^{-1} \left\{ \frac{2\left(\frac{\omega L}{Z_0} - \frac{1}{Z_0 \omega C}\right)}{\left(\frac{\omega L}{Z_0} - \frac{1}{Z_0 \omega C}\right)^2 - 1} \right\} = -\frac{\pi}{2} + \tan^{-1} \left\{ \frac{2\left(\frac{X_L - X_C}{Z_0}\right)}{\left(\frac{X_L - X_C}{Z_0}\right)^2 - 1} \right\} \quad (5)$$

In equation (5), C denotes a capacitance of the diode D4 or D5, L is an inductance of the diode D4 or D5, X_C denotes a capacitive reactance of the diode D4 or D5, and X_L denotes an inductive reactance of the diode D4 or D5. Accordingly, an embodiment of the vector modulator of the present invention may be directly controlled by using an application program after the analog control values have been determined using the equations (4) and (5), may be implemented using a look-up table, or the like.

The operation of the phase modulator of an embodiment of the present invention will now be described. A RF signal provided to the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 is phase shifted within a range of $0^\circ \sim 360^\circ$. The first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 varies a phase of a signal to be provided to the quadrature hybrid coupler 22, which is

coupled to the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21. This phase shift reduces a range of a polar coordinate system region which is otherwise not presently obtainable, and varies the amplitude of the signal in an increased range. Namely, the resultant vectors in the vicinity of the I or Q axis can be obtained by varying the phase angles, and is therefore not dependent on the limitations of an attenuator circuit.

The quadrature hybrid coupler 22 divides an output of the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 into a Q channel signal and an I channel signal having a 90° phase difference relative to each other. Only a phase of the Q channel signal is shifted within a range of $0^\circ \sim 90^\circ$ by the second amplitude invariant phase shifter 23 without change of the amplitude, and only a phase of the I channel signal is shifted within a range of $0^\circ \sim 90^\circ$ by the third amplitude invariant phase shifter 24 without change of the amplitude. Then, the combiner 25 combines outputs of the second and third invariant amplitude phase shifters 23 and 24 to provide a vector sum.

A signal provided thus is well distributed on a polar coordinate region within a range of phase angle of $\theta_I + 45^\circ \sim \theta_Q + 45^\circ$. Moreover, the vector modulator of an embodiment the present invention can also express a vector with a great amplitude which cannot be varied by means of the related art vector modulator well on the polar coordinate region, and can provide a vector having a very small amplitude. For example, provided that the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 is fixed at 90° and the second and the third amplitude invariant phase shifters 23 and 24 are made to have one phase

shift, a final output vector will have a form as shown in Figure 5. And, provided that the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 is fixed at 90° , the second amplitude invariant phase shifter 23 is fixed at 20° , and the third amplitude invariant phase shifter 24 is fixed at 20° , the amplitude K of the output vector is $K \approx 0.707$, and the phase θ of the output vector is $\theta \approx 65^\circ$ according to following equations (6) and (7). This position may be represented on the polar coordinate system as m1, as shown in Figure 6. If, however, the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 is fixed at 90° , the second amplitude invariant phase shifter 23 is fixed at 80° , and the third amplitude invariant phase shifter 24 is fixed at 50° , the amplitude K of the output vector is $K \approx 0.5$, and the phase θ of the output vector is $\theta \approx 110^\circ$. This position may be represented on the polar coordinate system as m2, as shown in Figure 6.

$$K = \left| \cos \left\{ \frac{\theta_Q + 90 - \theta_I}{2} \right\} \right| \text{-----} (6)$$

$$\theta = \theta_R + \tan^{-1} \left\{ \frac{\sin \theta_Q + \sin(-90 + \theta_I)}{\cos \theta_Q + \cos(-90 + \theta_I)} \right\} = \theta_R + \tan^{-1} \left\{ \frac{\sin \theta_Q - \cos \theta_I}{\cos \theta_Q + \sin \theta_I} \right\} \text{---} (7)$$

Next, if the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 is fixed at 90° , and the second and third amplitude invariant phase shifters 23 and 24 are varied from $0^\circ \sim 90^\circ$ at 10° intervals, a final output vector has a form as shown in Figure 6. If, however, the first amplitude invariant phase shifter 21 is varied from 0° to 360° at 20° intervals, and the

second and third amplitude invariant phase shifter 23 and 24 are varied from $0^\circ \sim 90^\circ$ at 10° intervals, a final output vector has a form as shown in Figure 7.

Therefore, as shown in Figures 6 and 7, the vector modulator of an embodiment of the present invention can distribute a signal to a particular region at a desired amplitude on a polar coordinate system by controlling modulated phases of the first to third
5 amplitude invariant phase shifters 21, 23 and 24. It can further distribute the signal uniformly over the entire polar coordinate system region, and can vary the amplitude of the signal widely by an appropriate phase shifting. Also, because the embodiments of the I-Q vector modulators of the present invention can obtain a signal of a user desired phase
10 and amplitude on almost all regions on the polar coordinate system, the I-Q vector modulator can improve a RF signal control performance.

Additionally, though error components of the related art vector modulator have an amplitude error (variation of the amplitude caused by a variation of the phase) of the phase shifters and a phase error (a variation of the phase caused by a variation of the
15 amplitude) of the attenuator, the present invention has fewer sources of errors because the only source of errors is the amplitude errors of the amplitude invariant phase shifters. Accordingly, the application of the vector modulator of the present invention to a radio communication system which employs a radio frequency, or to a measuring instrument in the communication field can provide very excellent performance.

In another embodiment, the vector modulator of the present invention can be implemented with a linearizer, such as a high power amplifier, or a radar system, and used to compensate a distortion of the radio signal. Referring to Figure 9, the high power amplifier having the I-Q vector modulator of this embodiment of the present invention applied thereto includes a divider 31 for dividing a signal and a vector modulator 32 for expanding a range of variation of a RF signal so that a vector of a signal from the divider 31 can be exhibited on all regions of the polar coordinate system. A main amplifier 34 is connected to an output terminal on the vector modulator 32 for amplifying a signal from the vector modulator 32 to a preset amplification ratio and a directional coupler 36 is coupled for sampling a signal from the main amplifier 34. A delay 33 delays other signals divided at the divider 31, and a fast phase-amplitude controller 35 compares a reference signal R from the delay 33 and a sampling signal M from the directional coupler 36, to detect an amplitude and a phase error generated in the high power amplifier shown in Figure 9, for controlling an amplitude and a phase of the vector modulator 32.

Referring to Figure 9, by comparing the reference signal R and the main amplifier 34 at the fast phase-amplitude controller 35, to detect an amplitude and a phase error generated in the high power amplifier shown in Figure 9, and controlling an amplitude and a phase at the vector modulator, distortions of AM-AM, and AM-FM which occur at the main amplifier 34 can be reduced, thereby reducing signal distortion caused by a nonlinear characteristic of the main amplifier.

As described above, preferred embodiments of a vector modulator and linearizer have various advantages. In particular, they have increased signal strengths relative to the related art as shown by the vector K. Moreover, they are capable of greater attenuation, especially close to the axes, relative to the related art. Additionally, the phase and amplitude can be varied to cover all regions in a polar coordinate system, thereby expanding a range of variation of an RF signal relative to the related art.

The foregoing embodiments and advantages are merely exemplary and are not to be construed as limiting the present invention. The present teaching can be readily applied to other types of apparatuses. The description of the present invention is intended to be illustrative, and not to limit the scope of the claims. Many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. In the claims, means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents but also equivalent structures.